

April 8, 1988

LB 716A

CLERK: Mr. President, I have a motion on the desk. Senator Wesely would move to return the bill for purposes of striking the enacting clause.

PRESIDENT: Senator Wesely, please.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you. Mr. President, members, if I could have their attention for a moment. Thank you. LB 716A is not what it appears to be. Just for your information this bill was gutted and now contains a provision which would exempt, well essentially, Bergan Mercy Hospital from review under certificate of need so that they could perform open-heart surgeries. Now I made a statement against this motion and the bill back on Select File and at that time I know many of you weren't familiar with the issue and were not really very much aware of the situation. Since that time I understand the Omaha hospitals have contacted many of you in opposition to this bill. If you haven't been contacted, I need to indicate to you that what had been perceived previously as an agreed to change is not agreed to. The Omaha hospitals have come out in opposition as prior opposition had already been expressed by Lincoln's Bryan Memorial Hospital. I made my statement, I went through this issue, but I've had a number of you come up this morning and ask to have me go through once again what we're dealing with and so I will do that for your benefit, and if there are questions I'd be happy to try and answer them after I get done with my statement. First off, the question you need to look at is on this measure, has there been a public hearing, has there been any public input? Number one, this measure before you is, in essence, a form of a bill, LB 542, which came out of the Health and Human Services Committee but that bill was originally introduced by Senator Hall to increase ADC payments. So that bill was gutted and put out of committee. I opposed that, but it still was gutted and put out of committee. So you could, in essence, say that a previous bill was being amended in here but that bill had no public hearing on this issue. It was a bill that had been introduced dealing with ADC. So that's the first point. The second point is, then we amended the bill on Select File and now before you is 716A, so it didn't have a General File or really for that matter, much debate on Select File, so this is an attempt to try and again make sure you understand the issue on Final Reading. What is that issue? Well the issue is this. You have many hospitals in Lincoln and Omaha that were performing open-heart surgery before certificate of need was

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